

Current state and issues of career education under the Career Education Act 2015.

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Since the implementation of Career Education Act at the end of 2015, national interest on career education has been even more greatly increasing. More than 3,200 middle schools adapted Free-Semester programme for the students to explore their potential career paths and informations.

However, many of the schools still lack the manpower or the facilities to conduct effective career education. In addition to that, the role and function of National Career Education Centre should be established and the direction for the future policy for career education should be considered. This study examined the state of career education from primary to higher education levels, conducted FGI to receive field opinions, and explored the ways and recommendations to improve current situation.

Four strategies were recommended for future career education policy, each with a number of sub-strategies: 1)reinforcement of career education at primary and secondary education levels, 2)expansion of career education at higher education level, 3)reinforcement of infrastructure supporting career education, and 4)revision of Career Education Act.

The sub-strategies of ‘reinforcement of career education at primary and secondary education levels’ were as follow.

- Organisation and operation of school career education curriculum
- Reinforcement of Career Development Competency and Career Values education from Primary education level
- Guidance and criteria for the arrangement and operation of career teachers and assistants
- Quality control for the training courses of career teachers

- Establishment of effective career counselling system in- and outside of schools

The second strategy, 'expansion of career education at higher education level', produced the following sub-strategies.

- Career guidance tailored for majors
- Operation of careers advisors that can manage career guidance and programmes and enhancing their competency
- Development of career education material tailored for type of education institutions and majors
- Higher education Career Index Survey
- Establishment of management system for the linkage between higher education and field of work

The third, 'reinforcement of infrastructure supporting career education' named four sub-strategies as below.

- Establishment of the role and function and of cooperation system for the National Career Education Centre as the hub and leading institution for national career education
- Enhancement of role and functions of the Regional Career Education Supporting Centre
- Reinforcement of career guidance system tailored for the vulnerable groups
- Reproduction of career information and contents to improve utilization and Enhancement of ICT of teachers and students

Finally, 'revision of Career Education Act' produced the following 3 sub-strategies.

- Proposal of 'Career Education Fundamental Act' to include school education and life-long learning
- Expansion of Work Experience host institutions and setting up the guidelines to reimburse the cost of work experience provision
- Refinement of clause in relation to vulnerable groups' career education